

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 02726

USOECD

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS1
TAGS: ESTC, COCOM
SUBJ: CRITICISM AGAIN BEING DIRECTED AT US COCOM
PERFORMANCE

1. REMINISCENT OF THE COCOM MEETINGS PRIOR TO THE CRITERIA DISCUSSIONS ON THE BELGIAN OBSOLESCENCE PROPOSAL THE USDEL WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS ON ALL BUT ONE OF THE EXCEPTION CASES AT COCOM MEETING JANUARY 24. ON THAT ONE CASE THE US HAD TO RESERVE AS US LICENSING ACTION HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETED. THE US PERFORMANCE AT THE COCOM MEETINGS JANUARY 10 AND 17 WAS LITTLE BETTER. AS A RESULT TENSIONS HAVE AGAIN RISEN IN THE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM IS AGAIN BEING DIRECTED AT THE UNITED STATES. AT THE JANUARY 24 MEETING, WHEN USDEL ASKED FOR A SIXTH FURTHER EXTENSION FOR US VIEWS ON A PROPOSED EXPORT OF A LOW LIGHT TV CAMERA TO CHINA (COCOM DOC. (77) 771) UKDEL RESPONDED THAT HIS DELEGATION WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT US HAD FAILED TO LIVE UP TO THE PLEDGE IT HAD MADE DURING THE CRITERIA DISCUSSIONS TO IMPROVE ITS HANDLING OF EXCEPTION CASES. IT WAS INEXCUSABLE, HE SAID, THAT US COULD NOT EXPRESS ANY VIEW,
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OR PROVIDE ANY OTHER INDICATION OF PROBLEMS IT WAS HAVING WITH SUCH AN URGENCY CASE EVEN AFTER THREE MONTHS.

2. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH THE UK STATEMENT, ADDING THEIR CRITICISM OF THE US FAILURE TO STATE POSITIONS IN A TIMELY MANNER. THE GERMAN DEL SUMMED UP THE COMMITTEE'S FEELING BY STATING THAT "IT

WAS THE COMMITTEE'S BUSINESS TO SEE TO IT THAT AN URGENCY CASE TABLED WITH ALL THE RELEVANT TECHNICAL DATA ON THE 31ST OCTOBER 1977 WAS STILL NOT BEING RESCHEDULED WEEK AFTER WEEK IN JANUARY 1978, WITHOUT ANY INDICATION HAVING BEEN PROVIDED BY THE RESERVING DELEGATION AS TO WHERE THE PROBLEM LAY OR WHAT INFORMATION WAS LACKING." IN THE GERMAN VIEW "SUCH A SITUATION WAS UNACCEPTABLE."

3. COMMENT: A NUMBER OF COCOM DELS HAD WARNED DURING THE CRITERIA DEBATES IN DECEMBER THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO THE US HANDLING OF THEIR EXCEPTION CASES. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS HAD ALSO PRIVATELY TOLD STAFFDELS MAJAK, JOHNSON AND POPPVICH DURING THEIR RECENT PARIS VISIT THAT THEIR AUTHORITIES TOOK THE US PLEDGES TO IMPROVE ITS PERFORMANCE SERIOUSLY AND THAT WITH THE NEXT LIST REVIEW JUST AROUND THE CORNER THE US'S FAILURE TO LIVE UP TO THEM COULD HAVE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES.
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